



House State Administration Standing Committee

61st Montana Legislature

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EXHIBIT 3
DATE 2/26/09
SB 276

March 26, 2009

The Honorable Linda McCulloch
Secretary of State
State Capitol, Room 260
P.O. Box 202801
Helena, MT 59620-2801

Dear Madam Secretary,

Recently, the House State Administration Standing Committee conducted a hearing, deliberated, and acted to recommend a "do concur" on SB 276, a bill sponsored by Senator Squires to amend section 13-13-212, Montana Code Annotated, so that only one address confirmation notice will be sent to electors who have signed up to receive absentee ballots for each subsequent election. The amended provision is commonly referred to in the context of a "permanent absentee" ballot and the confirmation notice itself references a "permanent absentee elector", even though the word "permanent" is not used in any statutory language concerning this provision.

During the hearing, as an example of the types of responses received by election administrators when address confirmation notices are returned, you handed out a copy of one elector's response, which was, in effect, "What part of 'permanent' don't you understand?". Our committee members are also keenly aware of the frustration electors have with respect to the address confirmation notice; and, in response to committee member questions, you indicated a willingness to consider ways to clarify the confirmation notice and to reach out to electors to alleviate some of their frustrations on this point.

Thus, this letter is to respectfully invite you to meet with our committee in the coming days for an informal discussion about how best to approach the absentee ballot address confirmation notice and process.

If you are willing and able to accept this invitation, please contact our committee secretary, Marshall McEwen at MMcEwen@mt.gov and let him know what dates and times, within our regular meeting hours, you could be available to meet with us on this topic. Our regular meeting hours are from 8:00 a.m. to 12 noon, Monday through Friday.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Respectfully,

Representative Dennis Himmelberger,
Chairman

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